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that a disinterested statement of one or two points is only the part of fair play. Mr. Weare's book is doubtless in many respects very bad. He filled up a volume about the Cabots ; of necessity he appropriated a great deal of material from the works of other men, and in many cases he does not specify whence he copied. This practice, if one may judge from Mr. Beazley's book, does not seem to be regarded as a fault at the English universities. Mr. Weare printed the texts of documents which had been published elsewhere,—but where he could do so in London, he verified these texts, and in several cases his book contains a text more closely corresponding to the original manuscript than is elsewhere to be found in print. He also verified the translations which he copied, and both Dr. Dawson and, unwittingly, Mr. E. J. Payne have called attention to cases in which Mr. Weare has improved upon the versions of previous translators. Mr. Weare also published, for the first time, an interesting document recording the payment of John Cabot's pension, and he gave an exact reference to the place where the manuscript might be found. In another part of his book, he translated this document, and because he neglected to repeat the reference, some very harsh things have been said about him. In short, Mr. Weare's book is a useful repository of the Cabot documents, which may be consulted there, in their original languages and in English, more conveniently than anywhere else. Well-equipped students will continue to reply upon the more scholarly, and more expensive, volumes of Harisse and of Markham, whenever they wish to examine these documents. They will also recognize with pleasure the efforts of every other student who succeeds in adding, however slightly, to the accuracy and the exhaustiveness of the work done by these masters of learning and of scholarship.

GEORGE PARKER WINSHIP.

*The First Republic in America* ; an account of the Origin of this Nation, written from the records then (1624) concealed by the Council, rather than from the Histories then licensed by the Crown. By ALEXANDER BROWN, D.C.L. (Boston : Houghton Mifflin and Co. 1898. Pp. xxiv, 688.)

THIS book may be considered as constituting the third volume of the *Genesis of the United States* by the same author, published in 1890. It utilizes the valuable documents arranged chronologically in that work, and other papers, some of which have been found by the author since its publication. Many of these documents have not been accessible to the public before Dr. Brown commenced the arduous task of search for them. The result of his labor has been an invaluable addition to our knowledge of the history of the Virginia Colony, the pioneer of English occupancy of North America. Not the least interesting part of Dr. Brown's work is the publication of the correspondence between the King of Spain and his minister at London, relative to the settlement at Jamestown, the minister urging the throttling of the infant colony, and the King anxious that it

be destroyed, yet taking no decisive step to that end, hoping that it would be abandoned because of the difficulties surrounding it. And well might Catholic Spain have exerted herself to prevent the English from obtaining a foothold in America, with their Protestant principles, civil and religious. English occupancy has proved to be Spanish exclusion; and the proud nation, once so rich and powerful, because of her American possessions, now, stripped of them, is so weak that there is little left to her beside her pride and her medieval ideas. No author has given so just an account of Spain's attitude towards the Virginia colony nor pictured with such minuteness the difficulties which attended its birth and infant growth. Through twenty years of its history the author has been able to trace the government of the colony under the original charter of 1606, and the subsequent charters of 1609 and 1612, and to relate the growth of the feeble settlement planted in 1607, into the self-sustaining community of 1624, when the King supplanted the authority of the Virginia Company of London, and took the government into his own hands. Now that the English dominate North America, every incident of this early history is of great interest, and the author has not omitted anything, however seemingly unimportant, which he considered authentic. He has thus taken 652 pages to relate the history of twenty years. It is safe to say that no library of American history can be considered complete without the publications of Dr. Brown, and no student of that history can afford to neglect their study.

With this estimate of the real worth of Dr. Brown's volumes, the reader will be pained to discover the deficiencies of an author, who has shown such commendable zeal in collecting and arranging original matter, but at the same time has shown himself wanting in some of the essential qualities of an historian. It has been well said of an historian, *nequid non veri audeat, nequid veri non audeat*. The great task for an historian therefore is the ascertainment of truth, which when once found he dare not conceal and be true to his calling. Where there have been parties to the transactions, making counter statements, the evidence on both sides must be weighed with judicial fairness. Dr. Brown states this more than once in his text, yet he has professedly written a history from *ex parte* testimony, entirely disregarding the statements of those members of the company, and colony, whose testimony has heretofore been accepted as true. He tells us on his title-page, that his book is "an account of the origin of this nation, written from the records then (1624) concealed by the council, rather than from the histories then licensed by the crown." He treats as false the histories of John Smith and the Rev. Samuel Purchas, published in 1624 and 1626, and the writings of the colonists on which they were based, and will have none of them. In fact he treats these authors, and those they followed, as enemies of the colony, though among them were men who ventured their money and lives in making it a success, and whose only difference with their colleagues, was as to the proper management of the enterprise. But Dr. Brown could not confine himself to the records of the Virginia Company,

concealed by the council at London, and write a history of the years previous to 1619, for we have scant account of these records previous to that date. He therefore uses the publications of the company, made from time to time, which he is forced to confess are not reliable, as their object was to encourage emigration to Virginia, and they therefore often conceal the miserable state of the colony. This concealment was in accordance with the policy declared in the instructions given to the first colonists sent in 1607, in these words, "Suffer no man to return but by passport from the President and Council, nor to write any letters of anything that may discourage others."

Again, Dr. Brown states that his object is to show that the colonization of Virginia was begun and conducted with the noble purposes of Christianizing the Indians, enlarging English commerce, and founding an English commonwealth in which should exist civil and religious liberty. He dwells often, and at great length, on the establishment of free institutions in the colony by the company, and he has named his book *The First Republic in America*. A proper study of the subject as shown even in this volume, leads us to the conclusion, that so far as the London Company were concerned these noble purposes, if ever generally entertained, soon resolved themselves into one, and that was the planting of a colony for the purpose of commerce, and that commerce to be monopolized by the company, even to the oppression of the colony. The author does not pretend that any great effort was made to Christianize the Indians, previous to the massacre of 1622, and after that treacherous act no mercy was shown them, and the whites, in modern phrase, considered that the only good Indians were dead Indians. As to religious liberty, we find no effort to relax the strict requirements of the established church in England, which were imposed upon the colony from the beginning, and toleration came long afterwards, and when it could not be longer withheld.

As to civil liberty, Dr. Brown has made a remarkable blunder, which is imbedded in the very name of his book. The colonists by their charters were guaranteed the civil rights of Englishmen, but they never in fact enjoyed them in full measure during the period of which Dr. Brown writes, and Virginia was not during any part of that time a republic. A republic is a state in which the supreme power is vested in representatives chosen by the people. This was never the condition of the colony of Virginia. During the existence of the Virginia Company of London, that company governed the colony, appointed its officers and gave it its laws. Even after the allowance of a representative legislative body in Virginia in 1619, the acts of that body were of no force until approved by the council in England, which still appointed the governor and council in Virginia, parts of the legislative body. The granting of that assembly was a great advance in the development of free institutions in Virginia, it is true, but it did not constitute Virginia a republic. Neither did the incorporation of the London Company in 1612, with power to govern the Virginia colony without interference from the Crown, except in matters touching the state, make the colony a republic. Indeed the govern-

ment of the colony by the London Company afterwards, was much more despotic than it had been under the first charter, when the company was controlled by the King; for then the council in Virginia had the privilege of choosing its own president, who was the governor. All this appears of necessity in Dr. Brown's book, for he could not entirely suppress the administrations of Gates, Dale, and Argall, nor the bitter complaints of the colonists, as shown even in papers issued by the assembly. We have to look further north for the first republic in America.

The key to Dr. Brown's serious mistakes in the very frame-work of his volume, is his bitter hostility to Captain John Smith, and his determination to brand as false every statement made by him, or in his praise, touching his conduct in Virginia. Of the twenty-three pages of his preface he devotes some twenty to violent abuse of Smith, and he never mentions him in the text without a flat contradiction, or an insinuation of dishonesty, or a sneer. Smith stated that the colony was better managed under the first charter than under the second and third, and he favored the renewal of the royal control which was effected in 1624. He was not singular in this. Many members of the company, and nearly all of the colonists, agreed with him, and the result justified them. But Dr. Brown, who fancies that the colony was a republic under the second and third charters, denounces Smith as an enemy of the colony, and is utterly unable to accord him any credit for his services in Virginia. These services have heretofore been held to have been valuable by historians, even by those who have discredited some of Smith's statements.

It would be easy, though tedious, to follow Dr. Brown in his frequent attacks upon Smith, and expose his injustice. But this must be reserved for another time. It need only be said here, that both Smith and Purchas wrote from ample contemporaneous authorities, existing before the differences arose in the London Company which caused its dissolution. And it may be added, that to have expected a company in London to continue to have the civil government over a colony in America growing into a state, would have been absurd in the extreme.

WM. WIRT HENRY.

*A Quaker Experiment in Government.* By ISAAC SHARPLESS, President of Haverford College. (Philadelphia: Alfred J. Ferris. 1898. Pp. 280.)

THE "Quaker Experiment" of which President Sharpless treats in this little volume—a monograph it must fairly be called—is that endeavor to establish civil government on ethical principles which William Penn, in his letter to James Harrison, August 25, 1681, termed "an Holy Experiment," and which he ardently hoped he might then find room for in America, though not in England. The experience of seventy-five years, from the summer of 1681, when Markham, provided with Penn's commission, reached the banks of the Delaware, and notified